

Farooq, Scott Goodwin, Lauren Hudak, Hannah Huebner, Casey Jedrzejczak, Alexis Jeter, Joseph Kasenga, Emily Lyness, Thomas Paliga, Shobba Pai, Samantha Skrobot, Tamiko Toyama, Lindsay Weiss, and Matt Westerlund. The teacher for this award winning team was Michael Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program for their commitment to excellence, as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great Nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

TRIBUTE TO THE PFIZER PLANT
RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor The New York Botanical Garden as it celebrates the grand opening of the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory on May 16, 2006. The opening marks the completion of the Garden's science campus, and is the only one of its kind at any botanical garden in the country.

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is one of the world's great collections of plants, the region's leading educational center for gardening and horticulture, and an international center for plant research.

The Botanical Garden's presence in the Bronx adds to the borough's diversity and provides a temporary oasis from the ubiquitous presence of concrete and steel in the city.

Realizing the integral role it must play in the quest to unlock the secrets of plants in order to cure diseases and protect the earth, the Garden has created the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory at The New York Botanical Garden with leadership support from Pfizer Inc. and The Pfizer Foundation.

The Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory marks a new era of scientific research at The New York Botanical Garden's International Plant Science Center. The laboratory is the latest addition in The Botanical Garden's comprehensive 15-year renaissance and will further its urgent mission to discover, decipher, document, and defend Earth's vast biodiversity.

The two-story, 28,000-square-foot laboratory provides highly advanced scientific research facilities, including robotic workstations and a high-throughput DNA sequencer. It forms a center for collaborative research in molecular systematics and plant genomics, serving scientists and graduate students not just from The Botanical Garden, but also from the region and indeed the whole world. The Pfizer Laboratory is the largest and finest laboratory research facility in any botanical garden in the United States, enabling scientists to recon-

struct the genealogy of plants and fungi and to probe the mysteries of genes and genomes.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting for a structure that will house such important and groundbreaking work to be an architectural gem. Indeed, the Lab designed by Susan T. Rodriguez and Polshek Partnership Architects is nothing short of breathtaking. The free-standing building is located on a site across from the Steere Herbarium and overlooks the scenic Twin Lakes. The building's integration into its natural setting reinforces the vital importance of the natural world in the scientists' research. The exterior of the laboratory complements the design and materials of the adjacent Steere Herbarium and Library Building. Large windows in the labs and graduate study suites look out on the built and natural landscapes, and an inviting courtyard provides space for all types of gatherings.

I salute The New York Botanical Garden for its continued efforts not only to provide a beautiful museum of plants but also an environment for important research and development. I also salute Pfizer, a product of our sister borough, for its commitment to further mankind's understanding of the plant world. It is their shared hope, and indeed, mine, that one day this research will yield beneficial knowledge to curtail human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, may the collaboration of these two respected institutions provide fascinating and useful discoveries for generations to come.

11TH ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN
BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 11th Annual Excellence in Business Award honorees for making outstanding contributions to the central San Joaquin Valley.

The recipients of the 11th Annual Excellence in Business Award are as follows:

Agriculture—Kevin and Diane Herman, The Specialty Crop Co.

Charitable/Nonprofit—Peter Carey, Self-Help Enterprises.

Financial/Banking/Insurance—County Bank.

Health Care—Family Health Care Network.

Manufacturing—ADCO Manufacturing.

Professional Services—Diane Anderson, Agricultural & Priority Pollutants Laboratory Inc.

Real Estate/Construction—Dirk Poeschel, Dirk Poeschel Land Development Services.

Retail/Wholesale—The Charles McMurray Company.

Small Business—Nelson's ACE Hardware.

Hall of Fame—Jack Stone, Stone Land Co.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate each of the Excellence in Business Award honorees for their leadership and numerous contributions to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing each recipient many more years of continued success.

PATARA: THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1800 YEARS AND 7,000 MILES AWAY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the city of Patara in Turkey sports a fantastic beach that sprawls for more than 11 miles. It recently rated number one on the London Sunday Times' list of the world's best beaches. But Patara is worth our attention for more than sand and surf. An archeological team led by Akdeniz University Professors Fahri Isik and Havva Iskan Isik recently unearthed an ancient parliament building in Patara—the meeting place of the first federal republic in recorded human history. The building, called the Bouleuterion, housed at least twenty-three city-states of the Lycian League, which existed along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey from about 167 BC until 400 AD.

The Lycian League's republican governing system, utilizing proportional representation, was unparalleled in the ancient world, and fascinated the pioneering philosophers of the Enlightenment, particularly Montesquieu. Depending on the size of the member cities, each elected one, two or three representatives to the Lycian parliament. When cities were too small, two or three banded together to share one representative vote. The six largest cities in the League had the right to three votes. The parliament elected a president, called the "Lyciarch," which at various times served as the League's religious, military, and political leader. Although it is contested, there is evidence to suggest that women could be, and in fact were, Lyciarch.

In Book IX of Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws*, after charting the highs and lows of the earliest republics, he stresses the utility of a confederacy. He cites the Lycian League as an example: "It is unlikely that states that associate will be of the same size and have equal power. . . . If one had to propose a model of a fine federal republic, I would choose the republic of Lycia."

Montesquieu's interest in the Lycian way of government would prove central to our founding. Thanks to his writings, in the debates about our own Constitution, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison cited the Lycian League as a model for our own system of government.

As well, in literal linkage, the semi-circular configuration of seats in this House of Representatives is exactly the same seating arrangement as in the Bouleuterion in Patara. The Bouleuterion's throne-like perch, where the elected Lyciarch sat, is much the same as the seat of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On June 30, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, James Madison appealed to the delegates' understanding of the Lycian League. The Convention had just rejected the "New Jersey Plan", which called for a rather modest revision of our Nation's first constitutional framework, the failed Articles of Confederation. The delegates resolved to come up with a new constitution, but had few notions in common of how it should proceed.

A delegate from Connecticut, Oliver Ellsworth, had just finished arguing for the Articles